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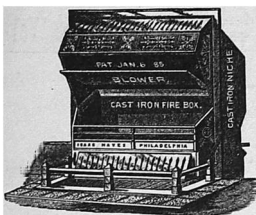
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### HINTS AND NOTIONS.

**The open grate.** The high capacity for  
decoration of the open grate renders welcome  
its approval by sanitary authorities as securing  
good ventilation and favoring radiation, that  
pleasantest form of securing heat as against the  
alleged amount of heat lost, but with the an-  
nounced progressive advance in the price of  
coals, the suggestion is opportune of supplying  
a screen beneath the grate, rendering it air-  
tight, it being sufficient for consumption, that  
the air has access to the top of the fire. Not  
only is coal thus economized, but less heat  
escapes and gases are better consumed.

**Fresco painting.** A microscopic examina-  
tion of the ground on which fresco pigments  
are laid shows a film of crystals, due to the  
absorption of carbonic acid from the water with  
which it is damped, converting the surface of  
the hydrate into carbonate of lime. Hydrate of  
lime oozes out from beneath through this crys-  
talline film and penetrates the pigments, which  
are held in place by capillary attraction, but  
the pigments must be applied before this exuda-  
tion has proceeded too far.

**Judging room proportions.** The eyes of  
most persons are so accurate in measurement  
breadth and height of rooms that the estimate  
given by many decorative writers of the extent  
to which the apparent proportions of room are  
affected by width of dado or frieze, must be  
considered as exaggerated, if not purely ima-  
ginative. At the same time, the exercise of  
proper discrimination as to these, with the view  
of introducing slightly effects, is not to be over-  
valued.

**Efflorescence on bricks.** One cause of the  
efflorescence of bricks, often so disastrous to  
the appearance of a costly facade of a building,  
and frequently injuring house painters' work in  
interiors by forcing its way through plaster and  
paint, is commonly due to the fact of the bricks  
not having been sufficiently burnt. Terra-  
cotta, subjected as it is to the intense firing,  
does not display this feature.

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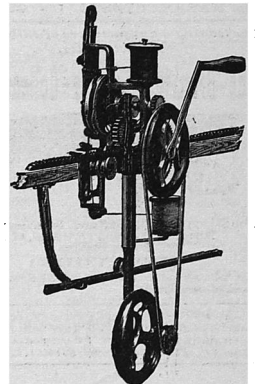
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